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A63B 57/00

(52) UK CL (Edition K)

A6D D11D

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(58) Field of search

UK CL (Edition K) A6D D11D

INT CL⁵ A63B 57/00

Online databases : WPI

(54) Golf tee

(57) A golf tee comprises a rigid stem 10 a resiliently flexible stem section 15 and a cup 14 for supporting a golf ball.

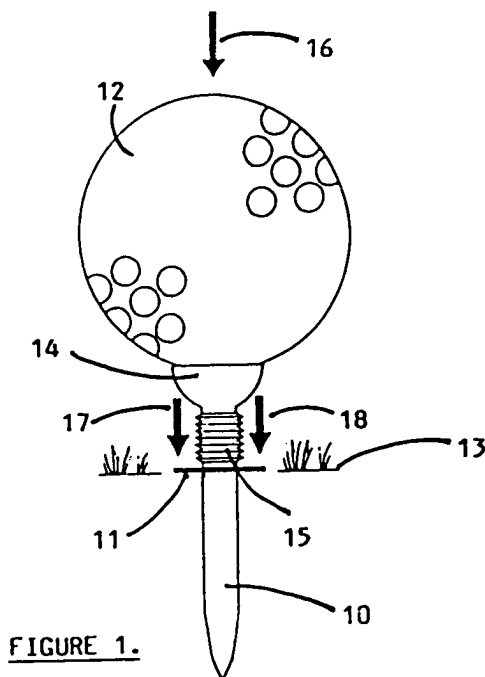


FIGURE 1.

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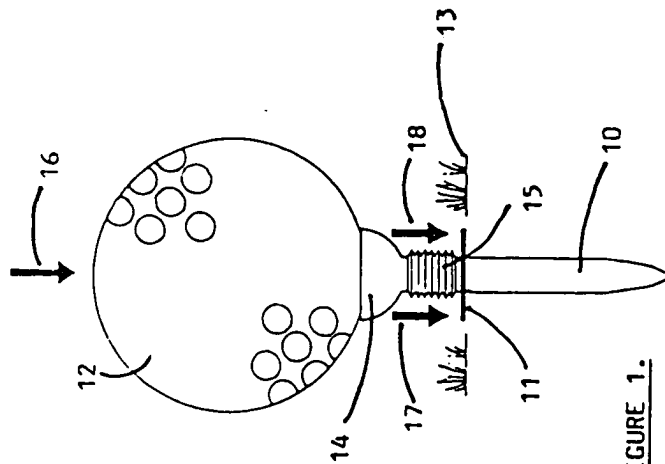


FIGURE 1.

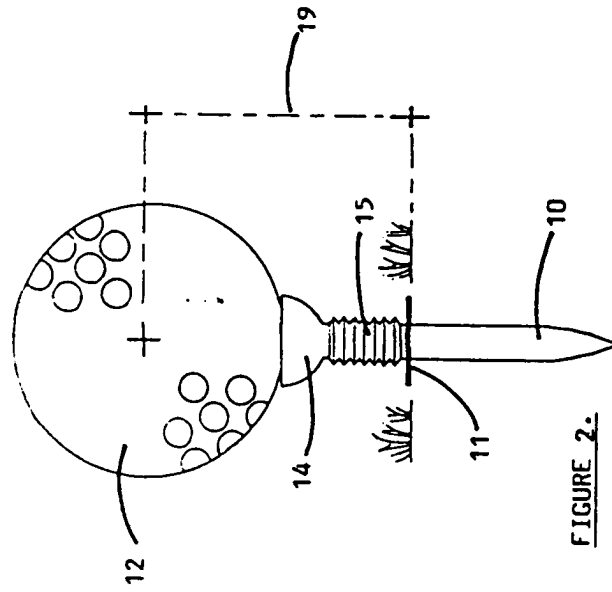


FIGURE 2.

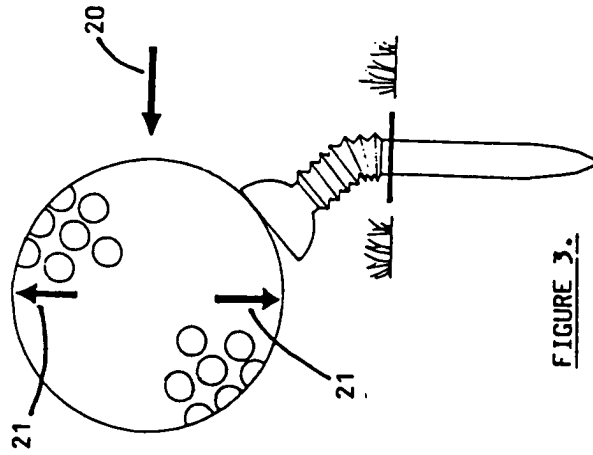


FIGURE 3.

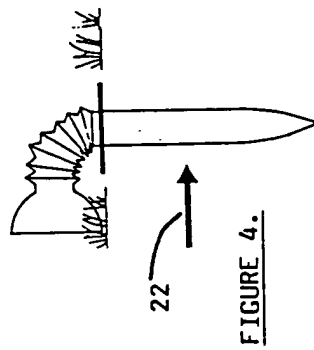
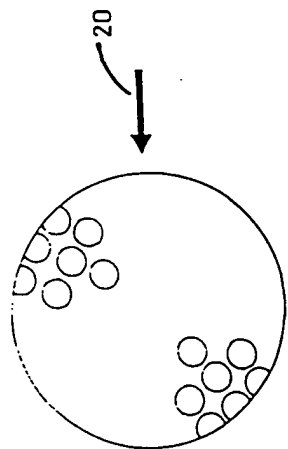


FIGURE 4.

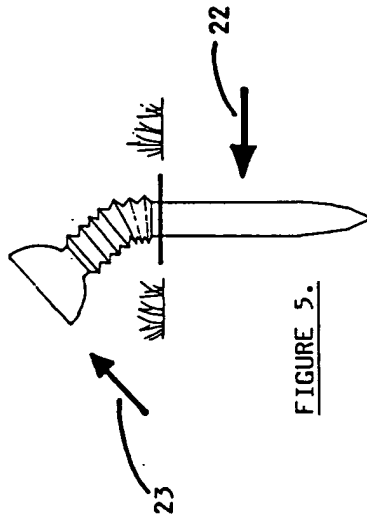


FIGURE 5.

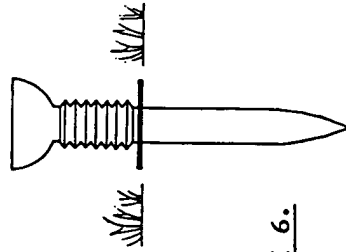


FIGURE 6.

SHEET 3 OF 3.

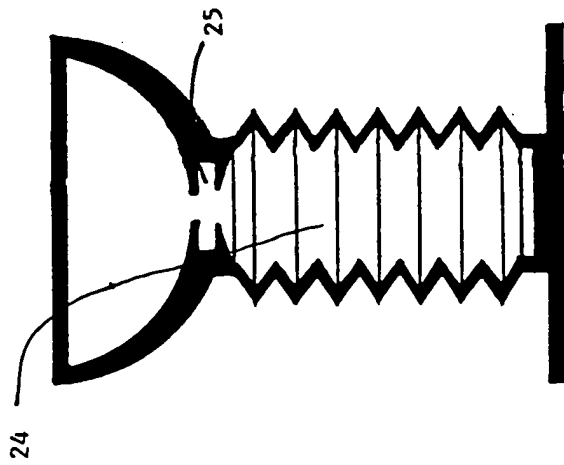


FIGURE 7.

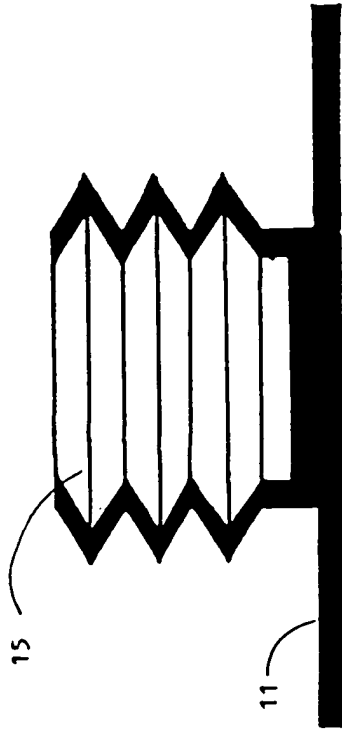


FIGURE 8.

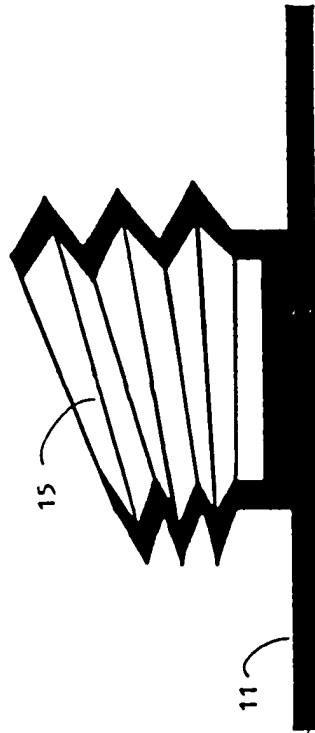


FIGURE 9.

GOLF TEE

This invention relates to golf tees.

The majority of golf tees in use comprise a rigid stem with a cup at one end, the stem being inserted in the ground and the cup then supporting the
5 golf ball. When the ball is struck by the club the ball distorts and accelerates and this causes friction and reaction forces between the cup and the ball which can adversely affect the shot and can cause the tee to spring out of the ground and be lost.

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide a golf tee which obviates or mitigates these problems.

The present invention is a golf tee comprising a cup for supporting a golf ball and a stem comprising a
15 first rigid section and a second flexible section interconnecting the first section and the cup.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

20 Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a golf tee according to the present invention with a golf ball supported thereon as the tee is being inserted into the ground;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the golf tee of

Fig. 1 when inserted in the ground and supporting a golf ball;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the tee and ball of Fig. 2 immediately after the ball has been struck by
5 a club;

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are side elevations of the tee in successive brief intervals after the position of Fig. 3; and

Figs. 7, 8 and 9 are cross sections through
10 parts of the tee of Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, a golf tee according to the present invention comprises a cup 14 for supporting a golf ball and a stem comprising a bottom rigid section 10 and a resiliently flexible
15 section 15 interconnecting the cup and the rigid section.

The rigid stem section 10 is shaped at its lower end to facilitate its insertion into the ground and is provided at its upper end with an external flange 11
20 which conveniently defines the proper depth of insertion of the stem into the ground, i.e. when the flange 11 is level with the surface of the ground as seen in Fig. 2.

The flexible stem section 15, as best seen in Figs. 7 to 9, is hollow and its peripheral wall is
25 formed as a number of concertina folds 15 which allow the flexible section to bend in any direction. The

space 24 within the stem section 15 communicates with the atmosphere within the cup 14 through a restricted passage 25, which acts as an "air lock".

In use the golf ball is located in the cup 14
5 and may be used to press the stem into the ground until the flange 11 is level with the surface of the ground. This pressure compresses the flexible section 15 but the inherent resilience and the air lock sucking the air
10 back into itself of the concertina folds causes the section 15 to recover its normal position and height when the pressure is released.

When the club strikes the ball 12 in the direction of the arrow 20, the reaction forces between the cup and the ball are minimised as the flexible stem
15 section 15 bends as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 when the tee is struck by the club.

After the golf shot has been played the tee quickly recovers from the position shown in Fig. 4, through the position of Fig. 5 to its normal condition
20 as Fig. 6, any air forced out of the space 24 in the flexible section 15 by the bending movement quickly returning through the passage 25.

It should also be noted that the tendency of the tee to be removed from the ground and possibly lost as
25 the shot is played is reduced by the bending of the flexible section and the interaction of the flange 11

with the ground which tends to protect the rigid stem section from the forces which might dislodge it from the ground.

5 The tee according to the present invention may be made of plastics or other material which provides in the flexible stem section the appropriate flexibility and resilience.

CLAIMS:

1. A golf tee comprising a cup for supporting a golf ball and a stem comprising a first rigid section and a second flexible section interconnecting the first section and the cup.
2. A golf tee as claimed in claim 1, in which the flexible section is resiliently flexible.
3. A golf tee as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the flexible section is hollow and its peripheral wall is formed of concertina folds.
4. A golf tee as claimed in claim 3, in which the interior of the flexible section is in communication with the atmosphere.
5. A golf tee as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the stem is provided with an external flange below the flexible section.
6. A golf tee substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

AM
Patents Act 1977
Examiner's report to the Comptroller under
Section 17 (The Search Report)

Application number

9101296.3

Relevant Technical fields

- (i) UK CI (Edition **X**) **A6D** **D1D**
- (ii) Int CI (Edition **5**) **A63B** **57/00**

Search Examiner

D WHITFIELD

Databases (see over)

(i) UK Patent Office

(ii) **ON LINE DATABASES: WP1**

Date of Search

18 FEBRUARY 1991

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims

1-6

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 0 427 478	(FRASER) (whole document)	1,2,4 & !
X	GB 0 401 453	(HENSON) (whole document)	1,2,4
X	GB 0 238 599	(READ) (whole document)	1,2,4
X	US 4 418 916	(MATSUURA) (whole document)	1,2
X	US 4 181 311	(LAWLOR) (whole document)	1,2,4
X	US 3 645 537	(PARENTEAU) (whole document)	1,2,4
X	US 3 633 919	(LICCARDELLO) (whole document)	1,2,4
X	US 3 559 998	(KELLY) (whole document)	1,2,4

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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

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